*Tells the Facts and Names the Names*

$2.50

# CounterPunch

**December 16-31, 2002** *Alexander Cockburn and Jeffrey St. Clair* VOL. 9, NO. 22

## *Our Little Secrets*

### He's Up There With Jesus and Galileo

From a Press Conference at Jackson City Hall:

Richard Barrett: "I'd like to thank Trent Lott's daughter for being here, today. And, thanks to Senator Lott, certainly, for his service to Mississippi and our country."

Tyler Lott Armstrong: "My father is a wonderful man, who has always stood tall. The news media has twisted his words. He has good character, he's a Christian man and a good man and has been a wonderful family man, with his children and all."

Barrett: "Mississippi is proud that he has stood tall, but please convey these memorable words to him, if you would, 'Stand fast, Mississippians.' May he not only stand tall, but stand fast. Strom Thurmond is a man of character as well, which is why Mississippi has supported both Senator Thurmond and Senator Lott. Just as Jesus taught the elders in the temple, a Mississippian should be teaching his colleagues in the Senate. That is why I have asked Tyler, Trent Lott's daughter, here, to remind her father, once again, 'Stand Fast, Mississippians.' Galileo was forced to recant, but the earth still orbits the sun. Trent Lott was forced to recant, but blue birds still keep out of red birds' nests. It seems that a bird has more sense than a Bush."

### Dirty Pipes

Daniel Pipes? He's the guy who's most recently been screaming about the PBS documentary on Muhammad (the

(**OLS** *continued on page 2*)

## *Is This Party Worth Saving?*

# Why Gore Dropped Out

It didn't take long. Somewhere near the beginning of December Al Gore publicly firmed up his position against war on Iraq, thus distinguishing himself from almost every other prominent mainstream politician, though not from about half the population. At time of writing, 12/18/02, polls show 50 per cent opposition to the Bush war plan.

On Sunday, December 15, Gore announced that he was no longer a candidate for the Democratic nomination in 2004. He'd come to that conclusion, he said, in the green room at NBC's studios in New York, waiting to go on Saturday Night Live. Liberated from the burden of candidacy, Gore duly put on one of the better performances of his career in public life.

So why did he stand down?

When Gore took his stance against the attack on Iraq he was parting ways with a group that had underwritten his political career these past 30 years, a group among whose prime features has been unswerving advocacy of the most hawkish Israeli positions, as expressed by Gore's tutor, Martin Peretz.

It was Peretz who stood at Gore's elbow when the latter successfully established himself as one of the most delirious pro-Israel apologists in the US Congress. It was Peretz who helped script Gore's prime-time Senate speech in 1991 announcing his defection from the Congressional Democrats in favor of Bush Sr's war.

Gore got his core funding from businessmen organized by DC commercial developer Nate Landow. Money always poured into his campaign treasury from exactly the money crowd which this year has helped do in such critics of Israel as Cynthia McKinney of Georgia and Earl Hilliard of Alabama. Gore had to have known, when he started voicing opposition to Bush Jr's war plans, that his most enduring money source would dry up, that he was cutting off his own money supply.

Is the moral that no Democratic candidate can afford to take any position athwart that of Israel's hawks and their promoters here? It certainly looks like it.

Most prominently in the field are Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts and Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut. Back in 1991 Kerry spoke strongly against war on Iraq. In 2000 Gore discounted Kerry as a possible running-mate because of that opposition.

Now Kerry favors war. Lieberman of course takes his cues from Ariel Sharon.

The same time that Gore was staking his antiwar ground, Ronnie Dugger wrote an impassioned article in The Nation, entitled "Ralph, Don't Run", calling for unified opposition to Bush in 2004. Bush, Dugger wrote, is far worse than anyone could have imagined. There is no longer room, he concluded, for any Third Party candidate liable to take votes from the Democratic nominee.

Dugger recounted how he had vainly tried to get Ralph Nader to agree that all progressives, populists, leftists, greens etc, should fall in behind the Democratic nominee. "Ralph persists in the view", Dugger wrote sadly, "that it does not matter whether a Democrat or a Republican sits in the White House."

Gore's departure hasn't made life any easier for those who would agree with Dugger. After all, here was a Democratic politician building a campaign

(**Gore** *continued on page 6)*

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

# Our Little Secrets

prophet) as altogether too favorable. And yes, he's the guy who says the academies are ripe with disloyal Arab-lovers. Possibly sensitive to the charge that he might have a "Muslim problem" Pipes has been edging away from his notorious remark some years ago concerning "brown-skinned peoples cooking strange foods and maintaining different standards of hygiene".

He acknowledges that he wrote this, but claims that "I was not giving my own views, only reporting on the way Europeans think."

Hmmm. Let's go to the original article, available at http://www.danielpipes.org/article/198. Here's the whole paragraph, which begins a new section. You be the judge. "Fears of a Muslim influx have more substance than the worry about jihad. West European societies are unprepared for the massive immigration of brown-skinned peoples cooking strange foods and not exactly maintaining Germanic standards of hygiene. Muslim immigrants bring with them a chauvinism that augurs badly for their integration into the mainstream of the European societies. The signs all point to continued clashes between the two sides; in all likelihood, the Rushdie affair was merely a prelude to further troubles; already it has spawned a Muslim political party in Great Britain. Put differently, Iranian zealots threaten more within the gates of Vienna than outside them."

Doesn't exactly sound like he isn't giving his own views, does it?

Editors
Alexander Cockburn
Jeffrey St. Clair

Business
Becky Grant (Manager)
Anna Amezcua

Design
Deborah Thomas

Counselor
Ben Sonnenberg

Published twice monthly except August, 22 issues a year:
$40 individuals,
$100 institutions/supporters
$30 student/low-income
**CounterPunch**.
All rights reserved.
**CounterPunch**
**PO Box 228**
**Petrolia, CA 95558**
**1-800-840-3683 (phone)**
**counterpunch@counterpunch.org**
**www.counterpunch.org**

## Frist and the Poor

### By Andrew Cockburn

Among those touted to replace Mississippi's proud son was that odious Senator Sawbones from Tennessee, Dr Bill Frist, best known for stalking the halls of Congress looking for someone having a heart attack, or at least a touch of indigestion, so that he can rush over and administer CPR while his press aide summons the fawning hacks to hear the senator's modest disclaimers of credit.

His score of lives "saved" in this manner stands at three. While serving as an ardent toady of business, especially the health care and pharmaceutical cartels, Frist projects a "caring" image, accepted without demur by all except his former interns at the Vanderbilt Medical Center in Tennessee, where he amassed big bucks as a heart/lung transplant surgeon. "He was a complete asshole," recalls one. "Arrogant and unhelpful."

Frist has subsequently let it be known that as a transplant maestro he "saw" indigent patients. "The equivocation is telling", says the former intern, himself now a distinguished practitioner. "As far as we could see the only indigent patients Frist 'saw' were the ones he passed on the street on his way to operate on rich Saudis at the medical center." If any further particulars are required to convict Frist, we need only say that he has been attracting the rapt attentions of Bono. Bereft of his two prime hosts in Washington, former Senator Helms and former Treasury Sec. O'Neill, the appalling Bono has been calling on Frist and dining with Rupert Murdoch.

## What Strom Won in '48

It's one of the staple and indeed few remaining pleasures of American political life. A Republican taken with drink, speaking unguardedly near a live microphone, or in Trent Lott's case coasting through a ritual farewell speech on automatic pilot, drops a racist gibe or fond salute to America's dark past. The rituals of outrage, apology, self abasement, renewed outrage, deeper self abasement, forgiveness or rejection, duly follow.

Sometimes the sinner is ceremoniously booted into oblivion, as happened with Richard Nixon's secretary of agriculture, Earl Butz, or Reagan's Secretary of the Interior, James Watt. Sometimes, as happened in Lott's case, the Democrats give him a thumping while hoping that in the end Lott will hold onto his post as Senate Majority whip, the better to remind black voters that this is the true face of the Republican Party, featuring the Klansman's robe, the burning cross and the lynching tree. Better Lott than some oily substitute like Frist of Tennessee solemnly declaring that the Republican Party has finally put the past behind it and that the healing should now begin.

One of Bill Clinton's many offenses was that he devalued the public apology. He had to make so many of them that they ceased to be valid as currency, like bank notes in the German inflation of the early 1920s when people took a wheelbarrow of cash to buy a sausage for lunch.

These days, post-Clinton, a manly mumble of contrition is no good. Unless a politician comes out with a truckload of apologies and keeps sending them round the track for a week, people claim he's refusing to climb down, and keep insisting, Does Lott really and truly mean it. And for that matter, why stop with Lott? What about the four Dixiecrat states which voted for Strom Thurmond back in 1948. Shouldn't their governors today issue formal apologies, make available "contrition bins" in every neighborhood wherein those who actually voted for Strom or their descendants, can deposit personal expressions of remorse?

Another factor in this inflation is the fact that sometimes the apology is rejected, no matter how often repeated. The Democrats and the press did this to Jesse Jackson. Columnists like the late James Reston, who defiled the editorial pages of the New York Times on a weekly basis with racist diatribes about Jackson's effrontery as a black man in presuming to seek the Democratic presidential nomination in 1984 and 1988, then whacked him again for inadequate demonstrations of remorse for his crack about Hymietown. Senator Joe Lieberman even managed to bracket Jackson and Lott, saying that neither of them were sincere in covering themselves with sackcloth and ashes.

The rhetorical undertow of the Lott up-

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

roar has been rosy-cheeked affirmation that because Strom Thurmond didn't become president in 1948, didn't even draw enough votes from Truman to put in the Republican Dewey, America thereafter made decisive strides towards racial equality, with justice and prosperity for all, achieved at some undefined point in the middle past.

Perhaps we missed somewhere in the press a useful update of the Kerner Commission, which was convened after the urban uprisings of the late 1960s to investigate the causes of that violence and which concluded that despite formal renunciation in the early 1960s of the old, abused doctrine of Separate But Equal, at the practical level Separate And Unequal remained the overall condition of black Americans. How much better are things for black people today?

True, a few overt statements of racism by politicians get chastised from time to time. True, as George Bush likes to point out, his administration is adorned by Condoleeza Rice and Colin Powell, which is like saying that all Nubians were doing well under the Roman Emperor Augustus because a Nubian eunuch stood at his elbow. But who are, either absolutely or in terms of proportion, the poorest, the most harassed by cops, the most imprisoned, the most executed, the most underserved in terms of schools, doctors, housing, lawyers, the most often at the receiving end of the economic boot, the most vulnerable to any adverse stroke of fortune, the least protected by those institutions that can offer credit and emergency assistance in a time of need?

Banished these days from public venues and discussion is the designedly overt racism of the sort that prompted Strom Thurmond to declare in 1948 that "All the laws of Washington and all the bayonets of the Army cannot force the nigger into our homes, our schools, our churches." (As Tom Gorman has pointed out on the CounterPunch website recent press accounts of this speech have been sanitized, replacing the word "nigger" with "Negro." Adam Clymer of the New York Times went out of his way to assure his readers that "the better spoken white Southerners of the time, including Mr Thurmond" eschewed the word "nigger" in favor of Negro.)

The politicians, the think tanks and the academics these days don't use the word "nigger" but embrace concepts with which Thurmond or the young Trent Lott, one of the leaders of segregationist forces at the University of Mississippi, would have felt entirely comfortable. Remember the Bell Curve which, amid much earnest praise in the press, mustered statistical fakery to argue that blacks are stupider? The basic intent of the Democratic Leadership Council that greased Clinton's career (and of which Senator Joe Lieberman was once the chair) has been to wean the Democratic Party away from any sense of obligation to "the special interests", meaning mostly black people.

In other words Strom Thurmond won in 1948, to the extent that the Democratic Party took his point entirely to heart. When the Mississippi Freedom Delegation tried to seat itself in the Democratic convention of 1964 the party regulars, including Northern liberals like Humphrey and Mondale, fought savagely and successfully to drive them out. It was in practical recognition of Thurmond's victory that Michael Dukakis began his presidential campaign in 1988, catering to Dixie prejudices in the Deep South, that Bill Clinton played to the same gallery in his campaign, railing at Sister Souljah and okaying the execution a black man with some of his brain missing.

The Democratic party that thundered furiously against Lott is the same that didn't raise a finger against, indeed covertly connived at the coalition that overthrew Rep Cynthia McKinney in Georgia in the Democratic primary this summer and installed a woman, who had until recently been a Republican and who had enthusiastically endorsed Alan Keyes, the most rabid opponent of abortion on the campaign trail for the Republican nomination in 2000. Of course McKinney was not only an economic radical but also vocal on the topic of bipartisan US support for Israel's persecution of Palestinians. You want to talk about Democratic hypocrisy on the topic of racism, given its unswerving support for a state which has racism and segregation as part of its founding principles?

Imagine Strom Thurmond, the night before he launched his Dixiecrat campaign in 1948. An angel (heavenly host, Democratic side of the aisle) appears before him in a vision, and says, "Strom! Don't do it. The party you planned to quit will one day have as its majority leader just one of those northern liberals you say is trying to destroy everything you and the South hold dear. This man will be called Tip O'Neill and according to God's blueprint he will, in the year 1986 if I am not mistaken, cooperate with the man you now know as a film actor but who will in 1986 be amid his second term as president of the United States. Listen to me now, Strom! These men O'Neill and Reagan will join together in framing drug laws that will ensure that by the year 2002 (when it is scheduled that you will reach one hundred years), many young black people will live in the certainty of spending long periods of their lives locked in prison.

Of course Strom tells the angel he doesn't believe him and pushes ahead with his Dixiecrat bid, but as the angel said, the fix went ahead on schedule.

***As George Bush likes to point out, his administration is adorned by Condee Rice and Colin Powell, which is like saying that all Nubians were doing well under the Emperor Augustus because a Nubian eunuch stood at his elbow.***

## WHICH WUZ THE FIRST?

CounterPunch has been skipping down Memory Lane, discussing early demonstrations against the Vietnam war. 1964? Maoists? SWP?

Our friend Stew Albert sends us this note: "It really would be great if we could actually set the record straight on the origins of the antiwar movement. I would suggest some criteria. The demonstrations would have to be about Vietnam (as was the May 2 march) and not just a general sort of pacifist 'against all wars' and making some mention of what was going on in Indochina sort of thing. It would also be good to know who was responsible for organizing the events."

So drop us a line if you have a candidate. CP

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

## *Who's Fighting the Good Fight?*

# Our Magnificient Ten

It's time for CounterPunch's annual round-up of groups that have impressed us with their grit and effectiveness. These groups are down in the trenches, fighting the good fight on issues ranging from strip mining to health care, farm worker rights to Bush's mad plan to turn the Alaskan outback into a launching pad for Star Wars. They're starved for money and whatever you can afford to send they'll put to good use. We urge you to dig in your pockets as deep as you can and give to them heartily.

You'll notice that we haven't listed any of the dozens of groups that have sprung to life in opposition to the looming war against Iraq. There are so many, it's difficult to steer you toward one over another. But that's okay. There's a demo going on in your town, most likely. They don't need your money, so much as your body. Go out and join them.

Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities
P.O. Box 230157,
Encinitas, CA 92023
760-634-3604,
email: <projyano@aol.com>

Project YANO is a nonprofit community organization that provides young people with an alternative point of view about military enlistment. Many of its members are military veterans who believe that high school students are getting a distorted picture of the military and war from recruiting propaganda. In particular, they are concerned that many low-income students are being diverted away from higher education and into the military, where they are found in disproportionate numbers.

Project YANO sends veterans into San Diego area schools to speak about the realities of military life and war so that young people will better understand what is behind the recruiter's sales pitch. As an alternative, students are given details on nonmilitary options for job training and college financial aid. Project YANO also urges youths to become community activists and consider working for social change.

In addition to giving classroom presentations, Project YANO visits local school counseling offices and career centers to distribute information about nonmilitary alternatives and the problems with military enlistment. Project YANO representatives also participate in career fairs held in San Diego County schools.

Since its founding in 1984, Project YANO has won the same access to many San Diego County schools that is granted to the military. Project YANO has worked to limit the military's presence in some local elementary schools and led a successful campaign in 1993 to prohibit the release of student lists to military recruiters in all San Diego city schools.

In recent years, the Pentagon has been pushing to expand military training programs in secondary schools. Project YANO's research on the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps program has made it a leading national source of information on the subject.

While Project YANO's direct outreach focuses on youths in San Diego County—home toone of the largest military complexes in the world—it also provides resources and advice to similar groups organized in communities around the country. Its educational brochures are used by counter-recruitment activists in many communities, and it serves as an information source for both national and international media.

Project YANO relies primarily on local volunteers and is funded mostly by individual contributors, fundraising events and occasional small grants.

National Coalition of Education Activists
1420 Walnut Street, Suite 720
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215-735-2418
Website: www.nceaonline.org
Email: ncea@aol.com

In the world of public education, where despair often seems like the realistic response, NCEA keeps trying to forge partnerships and find hope. Probably its most important function is simply to connect activists from across the country who are trying to teach instead of teach to the test. So, if you're a parent in Houston who wonders why multiculturalism means your daughter studies Harriet Tubman three different years but never hears about WEB DuBois, you can talk to a teacher in Philadelphia who's trying a different approach. And if you feel like you should sue your district for neglect, you can find out how it's done.

"A lot of the time the NCEA fails", says CounterPuncher Daniel Wolff. "And there are other groups around trying to do similar things. But it's the organization that's been there when our parent organization has needed it, and its bi-annual conference can be an uproarious convocation of parents, teachers and students who have been fighting the good fight."

Save Our Cumberland Mountains
PO Box 479
Lake City, TN 37769
Phone: 865-426-9455
info@socm.org
http://www.socm.org/

This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of Save Our Cumberland Mountains, a scrappy grassroots citizens' group headquartered in the Tennessee coalfields. This multiracial outfit's social justice and environmental protection agenda is determined by its members — not by funders. SOCM's members lead the charge with an effective style of grassroots community organizing that sets it apart from the rest of the environmental movement.

The acronym "SOCM" reflects the organization's fighting spirit since its inception, when the group came out swinging against the strip-mining industry. SOCM led the campaign for a nationwide ban on the destructive practice that put thousands of underground miners out of work while ripping apart Tennessee's green hills. SOCM's five-year campaign for a stripmine ban was eventually co-opted by a compromise by big national groups which led to passage of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) in 1977.

Today SOCM is fighting the largest (proposed) stripmine in state history, institutional racism, aerial pesticide spraying, clearcutting of the state's forests and a regressive state tax system. Whether protecting public health, promoting social justice or defend-

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

ing the environment, SOCM is on the front lines, making a difference in the lives of rural poor people in Appalachia.

The Sunshine Project
101 West 6th St, Lower Level
Austin TX 78701
hammond@sunshine-project.org
http://www.sunshine-project.org/

The Sunshine Project may be one of the most important groups you've probably never heard of. Formed in 1999 by Edward Hammon, Cecilia Pemiente and Jan van Aken, the Sunshine Project helped expose the insidious consequences of spraying coca fields in Colombia under the banner of the drug war. The group battles biological weapons on three fronts: human genomics, treaty compliance, and biotechnology in the drug war.

Example: In 2001, the Sunshine Project's report on biodefense research by the German Army publicized the fact that military researchers were working with disease-causing bacteria genetically engineered to withstand antibiotic treatment. While the German Army claimed it performed the experiments with a defensive intent, the transfer of "military traits" by means of genetic engineering should be prohibited globally to prevent any misuse.

The Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques (ENMOD) prohibits use of the environment as a weapon in conflicts. Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1976, ENMOD came into force in 1978. More than seventy countries ratified the treaty, including the United States. This little-known treaty has a remarkable past. ENMOD was inspired by global opposition to Agent Orange and other environmental modification technologies used in the Vietnam War. It was also influenced by 1970s fears that technology was rapidly reaching the point where deliberate catastrophic environmental changes could be triggered as a weapon for hostile use. Since the 1970s, the potential has grown. Examples are the use of chemical herbicides in the Drug War and the plans to use pathogenic fungi for forced drug crop eradication programs.

No Nukes North
PO Box 84997
Fairbanks, AK 99708
(907) 457 -5230
info@nonukesnorth.net
www.nonukesnorth.net

No Nukes North is a young organization whose creation was inspired by the proposal to place a missile defense system in Alaska. Its goal is to promote educated opposition to the program by providing information on missile defense and related issues via a website, email list, and newsletter. It also hosts guest speakers, organizes demonstrations, and focusses the attention of the media on opposition to the proposed system.

It's held major demonstrations at Fort Greely, Alaska and toured the state with anti-nuclear activists to raise awareness about Star Wars issues.

"No Nukes North is run out of this little cabin in the woods outside Fairbanks", says Stacey Fritz. " It was only a little over a year ago I finally got electricity and phone in. One room with a loft — no running water (outhouses underneath the aurora!) for me, my boyfriend, our two dogs, and the NNN office. Student loans to finish my thesis on missile defense were the sole funder of NNN for quite a while. Contributions are much appreciated as there is a great deal of No Nuking that needs doing up here. All those who donate will receive a splendid No Nukes North bumpersticker.

"We work with other Alaskan organizations to coordinate statewide actions and share information, and are active members of the international anti-star wars movement. Through our activities, Alaskans and others throughout the world have learned about Alaskan star wars sites and about the larger debate over the program."

The Georgia Resource Center
303 Elizabeth Street, N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30307
(404) 222-9202
Email: jhanusz@yahoo.com

The Georgia Resource Center provides the last chance for death row prisoners in a state now killing at an accelerated pace. The GRC's vastly under-funded staff of lawyers and researchers often uncovers new evidence that halts or slows down the lethal machinery. In their appeals court pleadings, the Resource Center attorneys bring consistent sanity and clarity to the randomized murk and illogic of the execution process. The price of what little state funding GRC receives is regular, severe auditing. So essential activities like supplies for around the clock brief-writing and flowers for funerals, what one staffer calls "the grief and morale tab", must arrive from private sources. If all you can contribute is the price of a six pack to celebrate a stay, it'll make a bigger difference than you can imagine. And you might help save a life.

ChimpHaven
710 Spring Street
Shreveport LA 71101
318-425.0002
chimphaven@shreve.net
http://www.chimphaven.org

Perhaps no species has been more abused and tortured by humans than our closet relative, the chimpanzee. Chimps continue to be routinely victimized by NASA, the medical industry, the drug companies and Hollywood. These animals are often killed or left in the most dismal compounds after their captors have finished with them. Now, there is a sanctuary for these abused creatures: Chimp Haven in Shreveport, Louisiana. Chimp Haven's goal is to design, construct, and manage humane, cost-effective, social housing for government-owned and other unwanted chimpanzees. Chimp Haven will also serve as an umbrella organization for several national sanctuaries. These will be located in warm weather regions to provide the most appropriate environment for the chimpanzees.

Lakota Student Alliance
PO Box 225
Kyle, SD 57752
Phone: 605-867.1507
http://www.geocities.com/lakotastudentalliance/index.html


## SUBSCRIPTION INFO

**Enter/Renew Subscription here:**

One year individual, $40
($35 email only / $45 email/print)
One year institution/supporters $100
One year student/low income, $30
T-shirts, $17
Please send back issue(s)
_____ ($5/issue)

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

_____

Payment must accompany order, or just dial 1-800-840-3683 and renew by credit card. Add $17.50 for foreign subscriptions. If you want CounterPunch emailed to you please supply your email address. Make checks payable to: **CounterPunch**
Business Office
PO Box 228, Petrolia, CA 95558


LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

The Lakota Sioux reservations of South Dakota are rife with poverty, poor health care, ramshackle schools, BIA and tribal office corruption and police abuse. Tribal lands are being plundered and poisoned. Lands promised under treaties are traded away as political chips. Tribal sovereignty is eroded day by day. In 1996, young people on the reservation joined together to confront these abuses head on through the Lakota Student Alliance. Their first campaign was against the racial insinuations of a border town homecoming coronation ceremony. They've protested the viciously anti-Indian Janklow government and maintained a year-long occupation of La Fromboise Island in the Missouri River right across from the Statehouse. They've also worked to increase funding for Lakota schools and colleges, spotlighted police abuse and corrupt practices by the tribal office.

Just Health Care
PO Box 53177,
Washington, DC 20009
202-234-5190
campaign@justhealthcare.org
http://www.justhealthcare.org/

Just Health Care is the new campaign for national health insurance: a public insurance fund and a private health care system with free choice of doctors, hospitals and clinics. Instead of over 1,000 insurance companies creating mountains of paperwork and wasting our premium dollars, one insurance plan will cover everyone. Think of it as a health insurance policy that provides guaranteed, lifetime health care coverage, whether you have a job or not. The number of Americans without health insurance continues to increase each year: 44.3 million uninsured. Just Health Care will extend coverage to every U.S. resident whether working full or part time, retired, laid off, in school or between jobs. By taking health care off the bargaining table, quality health care becomes a right, not a benefit.

Farm Labor Organizing Committee
221 Broadway,
Toledo, OH, 43609
info@floc.com
http://www.floc.com/

The Farm Labor Organizing Committee represents people who do some of the most important work in America, migrant farmworkers who pick the food we eat. Though these men, women, and too often children, feed our nation they typically work for poverty wages, in fields laced with pesticides, under the broiling sun. At day's end, they return to housing that can only be described as degrading to the human spirit.

How can they ever win a better life? Since 1968, FLOC has found the answer in a single word: ORGANIZE! Only organized farmworkers can win the power needed to make structural changes in the agricultural industry. Structural changes address the basic power relationships that drive modern agriculture. Without a union for farmworkers, corporate processors have almost all the power, growers have a little, and farmworkers have none. With a union, processors and growers recognize that workers have legitimate interests, and bargaining rights to protect those interests. Unionized farmworkers no longer have to quietly accept pay and conditions that are dictated by corporate processors. CP

(**Gore** *continued from page 1*)

platform exactly along the sort of left-liberal lines Dugger has long advocated.

Gore came out in favor of single-payer health insurance. He took a populist line on the economy. He attacked the looming war. At which point he discovered that no prospect of raising any money, hence no future in the party as a presidential candidate.

There have been three major issues this year: war with Iraq; national security and the bill of rights; the tanking economy. The Democrats have failed on all three fronts, nowhere more dismally than on the economy where opportunity has been ripest, as the Bush administration well knows, since it now looks likely we are heading into a double-dip recession.

The Democrats have no plan and some of the time manage to stand to the right of the Republicans on matters such as balancing the budget. Amid almost weekly examples of corporate looting and executive criminality unrivaled in the fragrant history of American capitalism, the Democrats have been unable to seize the initiative, which is scarcely surprising since the party has been soundly bribed into complaisance by these same corporate criminals.

When Gore took himself out of the race on December 15 he proved once again Ralph Nader's point: the seamless realities of mainstream politics; the enduring need for alternative candidacies. CP

**CounterPunch**
**PO Box 228**
**Petrolia, CA 95558**

Attention Subscribers: Please mail all correspondence to this address.

***Don't Just Stand There, Do Something! (See page 4)***

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED